

**DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 8, 2002**

**DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT    EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Adams  
John Barnett  
John Becton  
Searcy Ewell  
Lindi Johnson  
Nola McKinney  
Maria Morais

Pierre Curry  
Jim Hill

**DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT    EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

NONE

Ramona Sangalli  
Buddy Spivey  
Donna Hunt

DHS Representative: Artee Williams

Attorney General's Office Representative: Tom Gay

DSB Staff Present: Jim Hudson, Katy Morris, Coral Virden, Carolyn Holbrook, Charlie Cain, Richard Behra, Linda Paxton, Jim Pearson, Lyndel Lybarger, Bob Maxwell, Patricia Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Mrs. Nola McKinney made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Jim Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**APPROVAL OF THE 03/09/02 MINUTES.** Motion was made by Mr. Jim Adams and seconded by Mr. Searcy Ewell to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2002 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

**DSB DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Sympathy is extended to DSB staff members Darryl Lorenz, Francine Crain and Chris McKenzie who each lost their mothers recently. Darryl is a Rehabilitation Counselor in the Pine Bluff office. Fran serves as secretary here in Little Rock and Chris is a Rehabilitation Teacher here as well. Those who attend DSB board meetings and other functions will remember Pearl McKenzie, who had been a generous DSB volunteer as well as an active participant in quarterly board meetings over the years.

Please join me in welcoming new DSB Board Members Maria Morias and John Barnett. Mrs. Morias represents the National Federation of the Blind of Arkansas and Mr. Barnett represents Arkansas Lions.

Lyndel Lybarger, Field Services Supervisor, and myself attended the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) in Bethesda, Maryland. One of the most active discussions was the proposed exclusion of Homemakers in terms of a successful rehabilitation (26) closures.

Reauthorization of Rehabilitation Act – There have been hearings around the country on this subject. Discussions focused on how effective workforce development has been in relation to rehabilitation services? Linda Paxton, DSB Field Administrator attended a meeting in Dallas to provide input concerning the issue as it related to DSB.

Linda Paxton and Lyndel Lybarger attended a conference in Washington concerning The Ticket to Work Initiative, which is expected to be implemented in Arkansas next year.

Budget–DSB has to provide a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) or sustained level of matching funds to qualify yearly for the federal VR funds it receives. Decreasing levels of state general revenue distribution and transfers of DSB general revenue to other DHS divisions are jeopardizing DSB's ability to meet its MOE.

Voting Access–Persons, both blind and sighted, recently experienced significant difficulty in Pulaski County in exercising their voting rights.

Vending Facility Program–Fifteen security cameras have been installed in vending locations statewide and there has been a lot of feedback.

Congratulations to Mary Sloan, Rehabilitation Teacher in the Little Rock office who recently received the Tom Phiher Award from AER and to Katy Morris, DSB Assistant Director, who received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award through the Lions Clubs International.

Mr. John Barnett made a motion that an individual from the state voting commission be asked to give a presentation to the DSB Board regarding blind individuals' accessibility to voting. Mr. Searcy Ewell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Election of Vice-Chairman–Following nominations, Mr. Searcy Ewell was elected DSB Vice-Chairman. Mr. Ewell will serve as Vice-Chairman until June of 2003.

AASIS ACCESS–DHS Director, Kurt Knickrehm has written a letter to officials of the Department of Information Systems requesting an update of the state's progress in making AASIS accessible to blind individuals. The letter was read into the record and is attached as a formal part of these minutes.

Mr. John Barnett made a motion for the board to prepare a letter to Governor Mike Huckabee requesting information concerning the accessibility of AASIS to blind individuals. Mr. Searcy Ewell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES—Board Personnel Committee Chairman Searcy Ewell announced the individual and overall winners of the DSB Employee of the Year for 2002. Winner in the DSB Clerical Category was Dwana Tatum; Direct Services Category: Jimmy Jones; and Administrative Support Category: Randy Johnson. Jimmy Jones was also named the overall DSB Employee of the Year. All three individuals will be awarded plaques for distinguished service at the DSB Statewide Meeting September 16, 2002. Jimmy Jones will again be honored at the Department's fall meeting of the Arkansas Human Services Employees Association (AHSEA).

CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT—No report was submitted and no representative was present.

**CONSUMER INPUT-** The School for the Blind Alumni, from Battery, Madison and Markham Streets recently presented a scholarship to Clint Copeland.

The Arkansas Council of the Blind recently presented a scholarship to Shatteria Murrell, Twenty-two students from across the state will participate in JUMP Start 2002, which is a joint effort between the Division of Services for the Blind, Arkansas School for the Blind, Arkansas School for the Deaf and the state Special Education Unit. The program provides transition training and work experience for youth age 16 through graduation. It starts Sunday, June 9, 2002 and is scheduled to run through June 28.

**ARKANSAS INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL REPORT—**  
(Submitted with Board Packets.)

The meeting was adjourned.

The next DSB Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., September 14, 2002 in the Donaghey Plaza South building, First Floor, Conference Room A.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nola McKinney  
Secretary